



Voting Information News

March 2004 *vs* Vol. 14, No. 3

***A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.***

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"To Do" This Month:

☒ Post voting and election information, including this newsletter and the voting news releases on bulletin boards and in unit/ installation/ship newspapers to ensure that everyone receives election information in a timely manner.

☒ Take an inventory to ensure you have adequate supplies of the absentee voting materials, then distribute to all that you assist (including family members). One of the best ways to distribute these materials is to conduct voting information sessions or training workshops.

☒ Plan to participate in one of the training workshops conducted by the FVAP in or near your area. The workshop schedule is available at the FVAP Website www.fvap.gov.

Do's & Don'ts for Members of the Armed Forces

During an election year, many active duty military members may wish to get involved in campaigning for their favorite candidate. What are the limits to their participation? Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which covers Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty says that an Active Duty member of the Armed Forces:

☒ May register, vote, and express his or her personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

☒ May promote and encourage other military members to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute an attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election.

☒ May join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.

☒ May serve as an election official if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while not in uniform, and with prior approval of the Secretary concerned.

☒ May sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

☒ May write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the member's personal views on public issues or

political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign or concerted solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan cause or candidate.

☒ May make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates.

☒ May display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle.

The same Defense Directive 1344.10, says that Active Duty members of the Armed Forces may not engage in certain activities.

Members of the Armed Forces:

☒ May not use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.

☒ May not be a candidate for civil office in Federal, State or local government, or engage in public or organized soliciting of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to civil office.

☒ May not participate in partisan political management or campaigns, or make public speeches in the course thereof.

☒ May not solicit or receive a campaign contribution from another member of the Armed Forces or from a civilian officer or employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause.

(See **Do's & Don'ts**, page 4)

"To Do" This Month (continued):

☒ Ensure that people know how to get in touch with you for voting assistance. Provide the installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone operator your name and contact information to refer callers requiring voting assistance.

☒ Please request to receive your copy of this newsletter and the voting news releases electronically. This will help to ensure that you are kept up-to-date about current election information. You can make this change by e-mailing the FVAP at vote@fvap.ncr.gov.

☒ Visit the FVAP's website at www.fvap.gov often for up-to-date information and materials.

Empower Your People to Vote This Election Year

Rear Admiral Marc Purcell, Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel (Fleet Support)

As we begin 2004 and enter the election year in earnest, all of the Uniformed Services have been working hard to meet the DoD voter registration goals for 2004. For the Navy Voting Assistance Program, work has been focused on the critical communication and feedback loop between Navy Personnel Command (NPC) and the individual Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs). The Navy Voting Officer Online Database has been developed to provide this link.

Beginning January 15, 2004, Navy VAOs can go online and register their contact information on this NPC database. By entering contact information, VAOs will receive the latest voting news and tools as well as communicate directly with the CNP Voting Action Officer. This link will provide communication, feedback, reporting, and resource support for all VAOs in the Navy. To register, VAOs must go to <https://qol.persnet.navy.mil/voting> and enter their command UIC. The default password is: nvap2004. After changing the password, choose "Update Command Information."

This is the right time to provide all active members and their families the support they need to vote. Our goal is have 100% Navy-wide contact in the voting registration process by *August 2004*. To ensure that you have the latest tools, access to best practices, and the support you need to reach this goal, I encourage you to register as quickly as possible.

The right to vote is a cherished freedom, as we are reminded daily by the struggles towards democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. I encourage COs and VAOs to empower their sailors and families to get out and vote.



Further information and support is available at www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap or by contacting the Navy Voting Action Officer, LCDR Mark Lofton at (901) 874-4606, email: MILL_Navyvote@navy.mil.

VAO Training Courses Available Now On-Line

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has two on-line training courses for Voting Assistance Officers that are now available on the Internet. To get to the courses, go to www.fvap.gov and click on the select the Voting Assistance Workshops and e-learning and select the www.golearn.gov link and complete the online New User Registration Form before enrolling in the course. It can be reached by clicking the New User tab on the top navigation bar. The form is the first item on the menu.

Electronic Transmission of Election Materials—IT CAN SAVE YOUR VOTE!

Insufficient mail transit time is a common obstacle that many citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* encounter when voting by absentee ballot. The Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) has been very successful. The service is an effective and efficient alternative method for providing high-speed delivery (faxing) of election materials between local election officials and the UOCAVA voters (where permitted by state law). With proper controls in place, the service can reduce the ballot transit time at least in half, helping to ensure that citizens are able to cast a ballot when they would not otherwise have been able to vote due to time and location constraints.

To date, 49 states and territories allow for some type of electronic transmission of absentee voting materials for UOCAVA citizens. The provisions and guidelines for transmitting election materials electronically (faxing) are identified in each state and territory section of the *2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide* (the *Guide* is available in hard-copy format or on-line at the FVAP Website www.fvap.ncr.gov). To maintain the integrity of the process, citizens should follow the instructions provided in Appendix C of the *Guide*. These instructions include "What" "When" and "How" Sections. An ETS transmission sheet, which can be duplicated for repeat use, is provided on page 333 of the *Guide*.

With so many states accepting this alternative transmission method, the FVAP provides the following procedures for successful use of the service.

☒ Each request should have a separate completed cover sheet.

☒ Only one citizen's Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or ballot should be transmitted at a time. (Separate transmission)

☒ Be sure to specify the Local Election Official (county, city or town office).

☒ A complete Country (and city) code should be provided with the fax number.

☒ A citizen should provide a Commercial return phone and fax number (not DSN numbers).

☒ Originals should be mailed after electronic transmission.

☒ When faxing election materials, we recommend use of the FVAP ETS at DSN (military) 223-5527, (703) 693-5527 or toll-free 1-800-368-8683.

Important things to remember:

☒ If a state or territory allows a voter to fax the voted ballot, the voter must sign a statement waiving his or her right to secrecy.

☒ VAOs: When assisting citizens, let them do the faxing whenever possible. If you do have to fax their election materials, do not reveal the contents of their ballot.

☒ In the "Remarks" section of the FPCA, provide any information that may assist LEOs in determining your eligibility to vote. For example, a maiden name (or other name used), a name and telephone number of a local contact or your e-mail address can be listed in this section in the event the LEO needs to get in touch with you.

If you have additional questions and local assistance is not available, please contact your Service Voting Action Officer or the FVAP directly.

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Ms. Bonita Harris, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** harrisbg@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm>

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LCDR Mark Lofton **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672); **DSN:** 882-4606, **fax:** (901) 874-2785,
DSN fax: 882-2785; **E-mail:** MILL_navyvote@navy.mil, **http:** <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap>

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-2338 (MSgt. Julie Schlip), **toll free:** 1-866-229-7074 (select option 4, then 6 from menu), **DSN:** 665-2338; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
E-mail: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; **http:** <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

U.S. Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9827, **DSN fax:** 278-9827; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: YNCS Lori McNaught **tel:** (202)-267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
E-mail: LMcNaught@comdt.uscg.mil, **http:** http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters
Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX:
(703) 588-0108
DSN 425-0108

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER:
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

*Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.*

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

V/V -- March 2004

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Do's & Don'ts for Members of the Armed Forces (continued)

- ☒ May not speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind for promoting a partisan political party or candidate.
- ☒ May not use contemptuous words against officeholders described in 10 USC 888.
- ☒ May not perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on an election day.
- ☒ May not solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for a partisan political cause or candidate.
- ☒ May not sell tickets for, or otherwise actively promote, political dinners and similar fundraising events.
- ☒ May not allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or written by the member that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate.
- ☒ May not serve in any official capacity or sponsor a partisan political club.
- ☒ May not participate in any media or group discussions as a partisan advocate.
- ☒ May not conduct a political opinion survey.
- ☒ May not march or ride in a partisan political parade.
- ☒ May not display a large political sign, banner, or poster on a private vehicle (bumper stickers are allowed).
- ☒ May not participate in any partisan effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls.
- ☒ May not attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces or while in uniform.

This list is only meant as a guide. If you have specific questions consult DoD Directive 1344.10 or your legal or JAG officer.

**Be Sure To Add This
Newsletter to Your
VOTING CONTINUITY
FOLDER**



Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

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39 USC 3406

PAR AVION

OFFICIAL VOTING INFORMATION MATERIAL – FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL – DMM E080